

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Kindly rewrite Claims 1-22 and add Claim 23 as follows; please note that double brackets (“[[xxx]]”) have been used to indicate deletion of some text:*

1. (Currently Amended) A premix burner, suitable for forming at least one stable flame front in a combustion chamber, ~~comprising for use with~~ means for supplying fuel and air to said premix burner, and with means for mixing fuel and air to form a fuel/air mixture for subsequent combustion in the combustion chamber, said burner comprising  
[[-]] a premix burner casing, having an upstream end and a downstream end ~~thus defining a flow direction, said burner casing having a the form of~~ comprising a tube which is open at the an upstream end, has a transition contour, and being is in fluid communication with the combustion chamber at ~~its a tube~~ downstream end via ~~a the~~ transition contour, for flowing air therethrough;  
[[-]] a burner lance ~~being formed as comprising~~ an inner tube[[],] having an outer wall and projection projecting into the interior of the premix burner casing on the premix burner casing upstream end, ~~thus forming to form~~ an annular flow duct with the burner casing, the burner lance having:  
\_\_\_\_\_ an ~~upstream~~ upstream end, a downstream end, and an inner tube wall[[],] forming an inner flow passage enclosed by said inner tube wall;  
\_\_\_\_\_ at least one first fuel supply unit ~~being provided~~ on the inner tube wall to supply fuel into the inner flow passage[[],] and  
\_\_\_\_\_ at least one second fuel supply unit ~~being provided~~ on the outer wall of the burner lance to supply fuel into the annular flow duct.
2. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inner tube ~~being is~~ open at the upstream and downstream ends.
3. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transition contour ~~having has~~ an axial extend length, and the downstream end of the inner tube ~~being is~~ located in within the axial ~~extend length of the~~ transition contour.
4. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the transition contour ~~being~~ is convergent-divergent in the flow direction, ~~thus comprising~~, in a first section, narrowing the clear cross section of the premix burner casing and then widening the clear cross section towards the downstream end.

5. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the burner lance ~~being provided is configured and arranged~~ to be fitted into the premix burner casing in a modular manner.

6. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
\_\_\_\_\_ a swirler ~~being provided~~ on the outer wall of the inner tube for introducing a swirl motion into a flow through the annular duct.

7. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
\_\_\_\_\_ a swirler ~~being provided~~ on the inner wall of the inner tube for introducing a swirl motion into a flow through the inner flow passage.

8. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel supply units are ~~suitable~~ configured and arranged for feeding either gaseous fuel or liquid fuel ~~both into both~~ the inner flow passage and ~~into the~~ annular flow duct.

9. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, ~~having~~ wherein at least one second fuel supply unit is adapted to supply gaseous fuel to the annular flow passage, and further comprising at least one further ~~fuel supply~~ fuel supply unit ~~which is~~ adapted to supply liquid fuel to the annular flow passage ~~is provided and positioned~~ on the inner tube downstream of the second fuel supply unit.

10. (Original) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one fuel supply unit is provided on the downstream side of the inner tube, said fuel supply unit being arranged and adapted to supply liquid fuel into a mixing zone which is defined by the transition contour.
11. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least two fuel supply units ~~being are~~ arranged ~~axially~~ axially offset to one another, and ~~being are configured and~~ arranged to supply fuel to one space selected from the group consisting of the annular flow duct ~~or and~~ the inner flow passage.
12. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ Claim 1, wherein the inner tube wall ~~being is~~ formed such that the inner flow passage has an essentially constant flow cross section along the axial ~~extend~~ extent of the burner lance.
13. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:  
\_\_\_\_\_ a fuel ~~supply~~ supply unit for feeding gaseous fuel into the inner flow passage and operable as a pilot gas supply ~~is arrange essentially arranged~~ on the downstream end of the burner lance.
14. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:  
\_\_\_\_\_ a ~~fuel supply~~ fuel supply unit for feeding gaseous fuel into the inner flow passage and operable as a premix gas supply ~~is provided arranged~~ upstream of the downstream end of the burner lance ~~and is used as~~.
15. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inner wall of the inner tube ~~being is~~ contoured such that the inner flow passage has an essentially constant flow cross section, with a divergent downstream end section, and further comprising a swirl generator ~~is provided in~~

the inner flow ~~passage~~ passage upstream of the divergent section.

16. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:  
at least one fuel-addition unit (10)-fuel supply means for feeding gaseous fuel into the inner flow passage (7) is provided- and positioned immediately upstream of the divergent section on the inner tube wall, ~~thus the~~ at least one fuel-addition unit capable of causing a first flame front to stabilize within the divergent section of the inner flow channel, and a second flame front to stabilize downstream of the inner tube.
17. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 1, wherein an element ~~one selected~~ selected from of the group consisting of the casing inner contour, the inner tube outer contour, the inner tube inner contour, ~~or any and combination-combinations~~ thereof, being ~~formed~~ configured and arranged to provide a divergent-convergent venturi flow cross section of the inner flow passage, the annular flow duct, or both, at the location of a fuel supply unit.
18. (Currently Amended) A method for firing a combustion chamber for driving a gas turbine using the modular premix burner as claimed in claim 1, comprising the steps of:  
generating a premixed air/fuel mixture vortex flow in the annular passage, said vortex flow forming a stable premixed flame front within the combustion chamber after having passed the transition contour;  
supplying gaseous fuel into the inner flow passage essentially at the downstream end of the burner lance;  
using said gaseous fuel as pilot gas; and  
burning said pilot gas in a diffusion flame.
19. (Currently Amended) A method for firing a combustion chamber for driving a gas turbine using the modular premix burner as claimed in claim 1,

comprising the steps of:

generating a premixed air/fuel mixture vortex flow in the annular passage, said vortex flow forming a stable premixed flame front within the combustion chamber after having passed the transition contour;  
providing a divergent end section of the inner flow channel at the downstream end of the burner lance;  
supplying gaseous fuel into the inner flow passage essentially at the downstream end of the burner lance such that ~~a further~~ an additional flame front is formed axially upstream of the premixed flame front.

20. (Currently Amended) The premix burner as claimed in claim 2, ~~forther~~ further comprising means being arranged to flow for flowing air through the inner tube.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for firing a combustion chamber for driving a gas turbine using the modular premix burner as claimed in claim 1, comprising the steps of:  
generating a premixed air/fuel mixture vortex flow in the annular passage, said vortex flow forming a stable premixed flame front within the combustion chamber after having passed the transition contour;  
supplying gaseous fuel into the inner flow passage essentially upstream of the downstream end of the burner lance;  
using said gaseous fuel as premix gas; and  
mixing said premix gas with air flowing through the inner flow passage.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of using ~~The use of~~ the premix burner as claimed in claim 1 as a modular premix burner ~~by comprising~~:  
\_\_\_\_\_ providing ~~a the~~ premix burner casing as a standard module; and  
\_\_\_\_\_ providing a plurality of different burner lances, said plurality of different burner lances ~~being provided with comprising~~ different fuel supply units, ~~and/or~~ swirl generators, or both; and ~~can be integrated in modular fashion~~

| modularly integrating at least one burner lance into the premix burner casing.

23. (New) The premix burner as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:  
means for supplying fuel and air to said premix burner; and  
means for mixing fuel and air to form a fuel/air mixture for subsequent  
combustion in the combustion chamber.